

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title (page 1, line 1 and page 84, line 1) with the following amended title:

ORALLY ACTIVE ANDROCTONUS AMOREUXI PESTICIDAL BIOPEPTIDES

Please replace the Abstract, beginning on page 84, line 5 with the following amended abstract:

The present invention provides compositions and methods for orally active Androctonus amoreuxi pesticidal polypeptides. Compositions include novel nucleotide sequences encoding Androctonus amoreuxi pesticidal polypeptides, and biologically active variants thereof. Further provided are methods for modulating the pesticide resistance of plants using the sequences disclosed herein. One method comprises stably transforming into the genome of a plant cell a nucleotide sequence of the present invention operably linked to a heterologous promoter and regenerating a stably transformed plant that expresses the nucleotide sequence. An additional method comprises incorporating a nucleotide sequence of the present invention operably linked to a heterologous promoter into a microorganism and applying said microorganism to the environment of a plant.